

DuBois' Vision

excerpts from WEB Du Bois', "On the Future of the American Negro" (1953)

...(Y)ou must let the world know that this is your simple and unwavering program: the abolition of poverty, disease and ignorance the world over among women and men of all races, religions, and colors. To accomplish this by just control of concentrated wealth and the overthrow of monopoly. To ensure that income depends on work and not only on privilege or chance.

That freedom is the heritage of man, and by freedom we do not mean freedom from the laws of nature but freedom to think and believe, to express our thoughts, and dream our dreams, and to maintain our rights against secret police, witch hunters or any other sort of modern fool or tyrant.

Work and ever increasing categories of work must be carried on for the common good. Work like the forest preservation and flood control, the suppression of epidemics, research into disease, the broad planning of cities, the allocation and integration of industry. If all this must be done for the good of all it cannot be done by private initiative. It cannot be carried on for private profit. It must be planned. It must be conducted under discipline and any set of social leaders who try to stop this social progress are enemies of mankind and destroyers of human culture.

The four freedoms come not by slavery to corporations and monopoly of press, cinema, radio, and television but by united social effort for the common good so that decently fed, healthy, and intelligent people can be sure of work, not afraid of old age, and hold high their heads to think and say what they damn please without fear of liars, informers, or a sneaking FBI.

This is the life and the conception of life which today is being denied. Instead of regarding work as honorable and necessary and its object human service. We look on work as something to avoid and its object as a private profit and so far as possible, profit for the man who does not do the work.

Most Americans believe that without the incentive of private profit industry would collapse. No. The object of work is what it does for human beings, and in all the long history of mankind this has been the open and avowed end of human toil.

LYRICS



It is only in the curious interval of modern history, marked by the discovery of America and the theft of capital monopolized by force and used to enslave most of mankind to work for the few, that a theory of life has arisen which reduces the people of Asia, Africa, and the Islands to toil for the wealth of Europe and North America and even in these lands, makes most workers, although better paid than colored workers, yet too poor to be healthy and intelligent.

This does not call for force nor revolution. It does call for courage even to the loss of jobs for daring to think and guts at least to listen, to the refusal to mistake money made by gamblers, either at policy, or on the stock market, or display of clothes or homes as progress. Progress is peace, and peace is time for food, homes for love, health for happiness and books to read.

Full Text: http://mm-ed.com/pdfs/dubois_vision_full_text_mme.pdf

Songwriters: Gary Levitt & Lance Fialkoff; Guitar, Bass, Beat, Synthesizer & Narration: Gary Levitt~Young Love Recording Studio, Brooklyn, NY.
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